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Rajiv not out

By Our Correspondent

New Delhi: There are renewed indications that Rajiv Gandhi, son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, is still not out of the possibilities of entering politics.

He may now contest from Amethi, the constituency of the late Sanjay Gandhi, early this year when the state elections are due.

Rajiv Gandhi was to have filed his nomination papers on October 2. He suddenly joined a six-week Boeing conversion training course at Hyderabad. The government's decision to postpone state elections in Uttar Pradesh came later. The elections in all other states were held as scheduled.

During Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Amethi in November her party leaders renewed their request to persuade Rajiv Gandhi to seek election from there.

Addressing a meeting there she told a cheering crowd that she would convey to her eldest son the "desire" of Amethi that Rajiv should seek election from their constituency.

At a development seminar in Amethi, Mrs. Gandhi burst into tears when she referred to her late son, Sanjay Gandhi.

The Seminar was planned by Sanjay Gandhi. Had he been alive he would have been present today. Destiny had, however, something else in store, she said in a voice choked with emotion.

Leaders arrested and freed

New Delhi, Dec. 29 - All of the 10,000 farmers and politicians arrested in India's western state of Maharashtra after a protest march for higher crop prices have been released, police said. Police charged the crowds and rounded up the demonstrators when they tried to converge on the state assembly building in Magpur after a 225-mile march across the state. Former Industries Minister George Fernandes and the former chief ministers of Bihar, Haranya and Maharashtra states were among those held.

As thousands of farmers started out on Saturday's segment of a month-long trek to Nagpur, the winter capital of the state of Maharashtra, police seized 500 people. They included Y.B. Chavan, a former defence minister and home minister, and Sharad Pawar, the former chief minister of Maharashtra.

Both men are leaders of the Old Congress Party, which opposes Mrs. Gandhi.

Others arrested included R.A. Pati, a leader of the Janata Party.

The protest, which drew thousands of marchers is a political problem for R.A. Antulay, the chief minister of the state and a close ally of Mrs. Gandhi.

The arrests came after Mr. Antulay approved orders for the banning of processions.

Attacks on papers decried

New Delhi, (UNI) - Of late there have been a number of incidents in India where adherents of political parties have attacked newspaper offices and journalists for publishing adversely critical reports.

The attack by Marxist supporters on the "Malayala Manorama" offices in Kerala last month and the earlier attack, by Congress (I) youths, on the "Indian Express" office in Bangalore, (Karnataka State) have caused concern to those who value freedom of the press in a democracy. Both in Kerala and in Karnataka the attacks on newspaper offices were reportedly carried out by members of the respective party in power.

Now the groundswell of protest has begun.

The All-India Small and Medium Newspaper Association (AISMNA) has expressed deep anxiety on incidents of violence against newspaper offices and journalists and their arrests in several parts of the country.

A resolution passed by ISMA Standing Committee at its recent two-day meeting and released to the press by its President P C. Verma said certain sections of society were "bent upon bringing pressure upon newspapers with a view to reducing or compromising their right of freedom of the Press".

The statements made by some politicians that newspapers were "liars or irresponsible, smacked of a lack of sense of proportion", the resolution said. If a newspaper or some newspapers erred, the correct method lay in making complaints to the Press Council of India against them. To accuse the whole Press was far from fair.

Condemning the incidents, the standing committee called upon the Central and State Governments to take effective measures for the protection and maintenance of the freedom of the press. It also appealed to the newspapers to fight valiantly against any attempts to reduce their freedom.

Through another resolution the ISMA Standing Committee also refuted the allegations against newspapers that they played an active part in inciting communal disturbances and asserted that the press as a whole had never failed in discharging its duties to the country.

The Committee also wanted the Central Government to enact a law to check the rapid growth of chain newspapers, to facilitate the growth and development of the small and medium newspapers. It wanted the Government to ensure that no chain newspapers were allowed to bring out editions from more than two places in a State and from more than three places in the country.

Women protest porno films

New Delhi, (UNI) - The Malayalam silver screen famous for its daring, sizzling, pornography, after having titillated the limited audience of the south for a long time now seems set to expand on a national scale. The financial prospects of such expansion are no doubt, bright, but the odds, too, are many.

The southern film-makers hope to penetrate the lucrative Bombay cine market through its distributors who control the cinema business by offering these blue films at a throwaway price, according to 'Trade Guide', the mouthpiece of the Indian film industry. With the large number of varied audience seeking to enliven their existence through the cine media the profits are expected to be massive.

But this venture is not likely to be smooth sailing all the way. Besides the censors, waiting to clip the films, there is another hurdle, the newly conscious woman. Indian women after years of indignity and abuse on their portrayal have organized themselves to fight against the perpetration of this trend through the film media.

In Bombay there exists a reasonably well organised women's film reform movement and in the past there have been frequent protests against the manner in which Bombay's commercial filmmakers have depicted women. They have even threatened to go to court over an allegedly defamatory movie "Red Rose", starring a top-ranking Indian hero.

At a symposium organised in Delhi famous directors and actresses participating had to face vociferous protests and accusations for their role in encouraging the abuse of women.

The Kerala cinema by its emphasis on pornography is likely to aggravate the women's protest and intensify the controversy in the days to come.

More n-plants

New Delhi, (UNI) - Indian Atomic Power projects at Narora are likely to become operative by 1985, when the two units of the project will take off. The project, situated on the River Ganges in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh consists of two pressurized heavy water reactor units each of 235 MWC (gross) capacity. The reactor units are basically similar to those at Madras and Rajasthan Projects. The station design is also adopted to suit the seemic conditions at the site.

The authorities working on the site say that there is no safety hazard. Some scientists are arguing to stop the work at the project because of the danger of earthquake. Authorities wroking on the project said that all the conditions are basically considered by the experts in this field.

Nuclear power station has sophisticated equipment and high pressure and temperature process system having complex and elaborate instrumentation and control arising from the need to ensure reliable and safe operation of the plant. Nuclear equipment being large fabrication of stainless steel also call for special procedure in welding and machining, involving large and special machines.

In view of this, construction and commissioning of Nuclear power station need longer time than required for conventional power stations.

The sanctioned cost of the project is 262.36 million dollars. The foreign exchange component is expected to be about 10 per cent of the total costs.

Book export to China

New Delhi, (UNI) - India has for the first time entered the book market in China through the efforts of a leading book exporter here.

Amar Nath, who was the first Indian book exporter in the last two decades to visit China in August has been receiving frequent orders for books from that country since his return.

The exporter, who visited China on the invitation of China Publication Import Corporation (CPIC), told UNI that with the launching of four modernisation drives, China had allowed import of books with a view to acquiring varied knowledge to speed up its development.

The subjects in which the Chinese have evinced particular interest are Engineering, Medicine, Agriculture, Electronics, Economics, Industry and Urbanisation.

The United States and Britain are at present the main suppliers of English Language Books to China.

Satellite station in Nepal

New Delhi, (UNI) The Nepal Telecommunications Corporation has placed an order worth 5.25 million dollars with a British company for its first satellite-earth station.

The order, placed with firm Marconi, will also involve the supply of generators, a microwave link and an exchange link with the Nepalese trunk communications network, according to the Nepalese official news agency.

Marxist RSS clash

Tellicherry (Kerala), (UNI) - An uneasy calm prevails in Tellicherry and the surrounding villages in North Kerala where clashes between workers of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have taken a toll of 29 lives so far.

An order prohibiting assembly of more than five persons is in force in the area which is being patrolled by armed police. Leaders of the warring groups have pledged themselves to maintain peace. Yet people live in constant fear of a fresh eruption of violence.

The terror which reigned in the area for more than three months has given way to suspicion and hatred. This is evident from the attitude of political party workers and the general public.

Party workers, providing guard to hospitalised comrades, would not let a visiting UNI correspondent talk to the injured. The people are chary of talking about the recent events and the present situation. While life is near normal in day time, the streets are deserted by sunset. People peer through windows at the police patrols.

Cinema halls and eating places attract few people. Even the transport buses operating in the area carry few passengers.

A taxi driver, who claims to be unattached politically, does not think that lasting peace has been established. "Who knows when the next bomb will be hurled or spears weilded against opponents", he remarked. He, however, drew comfort from the fact that "only identified party workers are being attacked".

While the leaders of the opposing camps have voiced their desire to restore normalcy, they continue to level charges against one another.

State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President O. Rajagopal, in an interview, summed up the situation thus: "the RSS is gaining strength day by day. There is an influx of Marxist workers into the RSS. Alarmed at this development, the Marxists have unleashed a barbaric attack on deserters from their ranks as well as other workers of the RSS and the Bharatiya Janata Party".

District CPI(M) secretary C. Govindan contested these statements. He claimed the RSS provoked the clashes by stepping up armed training.

"The attitude of the RSS volunteers is that though they are fewer in number, their physical powers derived from training gives them licence to attack the Marxists, their main enemy in the area", he remarked.

He denied that the police were partial and added that a number of CPI(M) workers had also been arrested.

According to him, most of the killings occurred before the CPI(M) - led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government came to power in the State in January last. "The CPI(M) sincerely feels that there must be an end to the present politics of murder," he said.

Other political parties appeared to keep aloof from the strife, being content to leave the Marxists and RSS men to "fight and finish themselves". A leader of the Congress(U), a major constituent of LDF, who preferred to remain anonymous, said: "both the CPI(M) and the RSS believe in the politics of violence. Let them suffer for their policy".

The Congress(I), while joining the BJP and the RSS in the demand for taking away the home portfolio from T. Ramakrishnan (CPI-M), was silent on the violent incidents. The CPI(M) leaders said the Congress(I) was helping the RSS behind the scene.

Cannonore District Collector M A Koshy expressed the view that the steps already taken like the ban order and police precautions were effective and the clashes would subside. He did not expect any escalation of violence in view of the assurance given by CPI(M) and RSS leaders at the peace conference convened by the Chief Minister.

The Marxist-RSS feud in Tellicherry has an eleven-year-old history. An RSS worker, Vadikal Ramakrishnan, was killed, allegedly by the Marxists in 1969.

In the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, RSS workers, as part of the undivided Janata Party, supported the CPI (M). In 1978, however, RSS and Marxist workers started fighting and 14 persons were killed till May 1979.

The latest wave of violence followed the acquittal, by the Kerala High Court, of 12 Marxists - including a member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and a member of the Pondicherry Assembly - in a murder case. Earlier, they had been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Tellicherry sessions court on a charge of killing Chokli Ravindran, a RSS worker employed in a spinning mill in Maha, (near Tellicherry) which forms part of the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

The Kerala Government has refuted the charge made by opposition parties that law and order had deteriorated since the Left Democratic Front took over in January, 1980.

An official release recently pointed out that since the present government took over there were 482 political clashes compared with 619 clashes in the first ten months of 1979. Of the 482 clashes last year, 313 involved RSS men, the release said.

The release added: There were 29 murders in which both the aggressor or the victims happened to be political activists during the first ten months of 1979, while the corresponding figure last year was 24. Of these 24 cases, there were two cases involving the Naxalites (Maoists) where the victims were innocent and non-political.

In 1979 in 15 cases victims belonged to the CPI(M) five to the RSS, three to CPI, two to Indian Trade Union Congress, one each to Kerala Congress, Youth Congress, Kerala Trade Union Congress and Kerala Students Union.

While the number of political murders and clashes have fallen since the Left Democratic Front came to power, the Marxists have been mostly the target of attack whenever clashes have occurred.

Red tape and private sector

India's private sector, festooned with red tape, is at last being offered some government encouragement. The reason for this change of heart by the prime minister Indira Gandhi - a 1.4 per cent drop in industrial production last year - is a reflection of the problems that India's attempts at Fabian planning have produced. And the concessions made under the new policy are eloquent testimony to India's nightmare of government controls.

Thanks to the government's change of heart, the number of permits granted to firms wishing to set up new businesses has risen 40 per cent this year. Selected industries have been told they can expand by a third in the next five years without permission. Foreign partnership rules have been eased, especially for export industries. Companies who turn out to have bigger capacity than they were officially allowed will not be penalised. And controlled prices on some goods (eg., fertilisers and cement) have been raised to levels that permit decent profitability.

Most of these concessions would be regarded as the minimum for private sector survival in any other mixed economy. And, despite them, India's businessmen claim they are still left facing endless layers of bureaucratic supervision, a draconian tax system and myriad government controls.

A businessman who earns a return of 8 per cent on assets worth $250,000 would, if he declared his income honestly, have almost all of it taken away by income tax, wealth tax and a "compulsory deposit". Anyone equally honest, but wealthier, would actually earn a negative net income. Unsurprisingly, honest businessmen do not abound: the survivors conceal their income, create tax shelters and buy off politicians and tax inspectors.

Corporate tax is less extortionate than income tax, but nevertheless averages 60 per cent. For plantation companies it can exceed 75 per cent. Businessmen strive to keep their real profits out of their accounts. As a result, India is awash with "black money" - income concealed from the taxman. There is a corresponding shortage of white money - only 500 people admit to income of over $70,000 a year. Hidden wealth cannot easily be deployed in industry without attracting the taxman's attention. So industry is starved of funds while there is unlimited cash for hoarding, property speculation, loan sharking, smuggling and various types of crime.

Even after siphoning vast sums of black money off the books, private companies admit to gross profits averaging 9 per cent of turnover. But taxes cream off 60 per cent of this, and two thirds of the balance is distributed in the form of dividends. Thus corporate savings are abysmally low at around $400m.

So the government, having taxed away profits in the first place, is obliged to hand them back in the form of loans. Shipping companies get as much as 90 per cent of the cost of their ships from government loans. For other industries the standard share is 66 per cent. The government insists that a promoter of a new company should provide at least 15 per cent of the capital, but even this is difficult to come by for large projects like fertiliser plants.

A common compromise - equity and loans from a state government, management by a big business house with a minority stake - solves the problem of finance, but increases delays. It can take five years to get a project cleared by the government and negotiate loans with public financial institutions.

The public sector in India is an inefficient leviathan, highly capital-intensive and hopelessly overmanned. It runs at a loss, yet it accounts for three quarters of annual investment in industry, financed by taxes and borrowing. The private sector, by contrast, is a relatively efficient pygmy. It accounts for a little over a quarter of all industrial assets, two thirds of industrial output, and all the profits. Yet the cream of the country's managerial talent ends up tramping the corridors of New Delhi, greasing the palms of ministers and civil servants to keep their files moving through the system. Mrs. Gandhi's new policy of encouragement will ease the pressure a little but so long as the political consensus ensures the survival of controls, bureaucratic supervision and a pointless mixture of taxation and subsidy, India's private sector will always waste too much of its talents and resources on simple survival.

Industrial all-rounders

The typical big Indian firm is a higgledy-piggledy conglomerate. Turnover figures are rarely available - it is usually not at all clear which companies are subsidiaries and which independent.

The two biggest groups are Birla and Tata, with assets of about $1.5 billion each. The Birla group encompasses 69 companies producing hundreds of items ranging from cloth and jute to paper and aluminium, from cement and cars to alloys and machinery.

It is negotiating a joint fertiliser project with state governments which could cost $400m, and another such venture for paper and pulp costing $180m. Other new projects: several cement plants, expanded aluminium production, a new line of cars, increased chemical and synthetic fibres production. It is taking full advantage of the generous shipping loans available.

The Birla group's astonishingly fast growth took it past the traditional leader, Tata, a few years ago. The Birlas know better than anyone how to run the gauntlet of politicians and bureaucrats (they were champions of Mrs Gandhi during her emergency). Top Birla executives are given the money to become industrialists in their own right; they stay with Birla themselves, but their sons and relatives run the new firm.

The Tata group started heavy industry in India by setting up a steel mill in 1912. It is highly diversified, professionally managed, and commands some of the best technical talent in the country. Yet its growth in the past two decades has been sluggish. The group has a reputation for clean business practices, which is not the ideal passport to growth in India. It has made the mistake of concentrating on capital-intensive sectors like steel and power, where price controls keep profitability low. But its truck division has been an outstanding success, and Tata goods have a high reputation for quality. The group plans to modernise its steel mill at a cost of $250m. It is also investing $170m in expanding its output of trucks in collaboration with Daimler-Benz. It is building a new 500MW power plant near Bombay, and has applied for permission to set up a second such unit.

There are over 350 multinational companies in India. The biggest is ICI, which manufactures fertilisers, polyester fibres, drugs and chemicals. It is expanding its fertiliser plant at a cost of $120m, and is doubling its polyester capacity. Unilever's Indian subsidiary has just completed an organophosphate plant, which will provide the raw material for its detergents.

A few years ago, India enacted the Foreign Exchange Regulation act which forced foreign companies to reduce their equity holdings. Foreign firms raised an outcry at the time and IBM and Coca Cola actually pulled out of India but many now find that expansion has become much easier. Those who have cut their equity share to 40 per cent are now treated on a par with Indian-owned companies.

[The Economist].

Pak women protest

The conference of Pakistani women held in Islamabad recently expressed its strong concern that discrimination against women in national life continues in Pakistan. It held the view that discrimination against women was an un-Islamic custom prevalent in the country with the full blessings of the military regime and the mullahs. Conference demanded equal status for women in all spheres of public life and strongly urged the military regime to retain the Family Law Ordinance of 1961.

Gen. Zia's regime has failed to curb the organized crimes in the country. The forgery of Passports, visas, university degrees and bank drafts is on the increase in Pakistan. Policemen continue to shield the criminals and the tehsil patwaris continue to forge and alter the land records illegally. These employees of the state are notorious to make money through corruption and crime.

SLUM PROBLEM TO BE TACKLED

New Delhi, (UNI) - An estimated 20 per cent of India's urban population may be living in slums, according to Works and Housing Minister Bhishma Narain Singh.

He told Parliament that no accurate figures were, however, available.

Call for p

[By UNI Correspondent Sujit Dutta]

New Delhi, (UNI) - Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's four-day visit to India (December 8-11), his third in the past two decades, was significant and fruitful. Five important economic agreements signed during the talks and a major proposal to keep the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf free from tension were the fall-out of a summit dialogue that was closely followed all over the world.

The importance the Soviet side attached to the visit is apparent from the large delegation of nearly 200 that accompanied Mr. Brezhnev. It included Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, First Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers Ivan Arkhipov, Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Firyubin, Chairman of the Soviet Committee of Cinematography Filip Yermash and other leading officials. Neither the Polish crisis nor the none too satisfactory physical condition of Mr. Brezhnev could deter the visit announced when the Indian President Sanjiva Reddy visited Soviet Union last August.

Indo-Soviet cooperation has grown over the years. While Soviet economic, military and political help has been crucial to India's development, to the Soviet Union India remains the biggest non-socialist friend in the Third World. While India can hardly forget the Soviet support on the Kashmir issue and the Bangladesh crisis, Indian positions on Hungary, Kampuchea, Vietnam and Afghanistan have been appreciated by the Soviets. The situation in West Asia, especially the Iran-Iraq conflict and the oil crisis, and Afghanistan, however, had given an international significance to the summit. Many countries had expected Afghanistan to prove a major irritant to the two sides.

Mr. Brezhnev, however, in all his speeches refused to see the Afghanistan crisis as an isolated incident. In his speech at the civic reception accorded to him in New Delhi on December 9 and again in his address to the Members of the Indian Parliament on December 10, he gave prominence to the growing tension in the global climate, the arms race, the Gulf war and the militarisation of the Indian Ocean by the NATO bloc and linked them to the situation in Afghanistan.

The Joint Indo-Soviet Declaration does not mention Afghanistan but only the hotbeds of tension in south-west Asia" as a whole and the need for a negotiated settlement that included the Gulf area as much as Afghanistan.

What deserves the greatest attention in international forums and foreign offices is Mr. Brezhnev's five-point peace plan for the Gulf put forward in his address to the Indian Parliament. In a major foreign policy initiative, which he called the doctrine of peace and security, Mr. Brezhnev proposed to the United States, other western powers, Japan and China:

- not to set up military bases in the Persian Gulf area and the adjacent islands, not to deploy nuclear or any other weapons of mass destruction;

Call for peace in Asia

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- not to set up military bases in the Persian Gulf area and the adjacent islands, not to deploy nuclear or any other weapons of mass destruction;
- not to use or threaten to use force against the countries of the Gulf region and not to interfere in their internal affairs;
- to respect the non-alignment of countries in the area and not to draw them into military groupings with the participation of nuclear powers;
- to respect the sovereign rights of the states of the area to their natural resources;
- not to pose any obstacle or pose threats to normal trade exchanges and to the use of sea lanes linking the states of the area to other countries.

In his address Mr. Brezhnev debunked all talk of a "Soviet threat" to the oil riches of the Gulf and said that under the trumped up pretext of protecting their vital interests, Powers situated thousands of kilometers away were concentrating a military armada, building up armaments, and widening the network of their military bases in the area. He criticised the United States and its allies for exerting pressure on the small countries of the region for refusing to follow the western line.

Describing the Middle East situation as explosive and the Iran-Iraq conflict as tragic, Mr. Brezhnev called for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. He said the conflict was a "graphic example of how dangerous it is for countries which are not yet strong enough to find themselves between the grindstones of imperialist policies." He said that while Iran and Iraq would gain nothing but devastated economies and losses in human lives, the Arab unity and the anti-imperialist character of their policies will be the casualty.

He blamed the "opponents of peace" and initiators of arms race" for sending in armed gangs into Afghanistan.

While calling for cessation of Soviet military assistance to Afghanistan, these powers, he said, were doing everything to impede normalisation of the situation. Mr. Brezhnev pointed out that the situation in Afghanistan, despite the deceptions and misinformations, was returning to normal.

Islamic University for Kerala

Kottayam, (Kerala) - (UNI) - Shaikh Yusuf Asseyid Hashim al-Rafai, former Wakf minister of Kuwait, laid the foundation stone for Kerala's first Islamic University on December 11 at South Vazhakkulam in Ernakulam district under the auspices of the Jamaat-e-Ulema-e-Hind.

To be named as "Jamia Hassania", the proposed university will have arts and science colleges, an Arabic college, High Schools and Nursery Schools, hostels and a hospital. There will also be an employment training centre.

A well-equipped Islamic research reference library will be an important institution forming part of the Jamia Hassania. Free accommodation will be provided to theologians who desire to make use of the library, for which large donations of Islamic books have already been made by individuals.

Explaining the Islamic university project to newsmen here the Kerala Jamaat Chairman Maulana Shaikh Hassan Hazreth said preparations for the inaugural function were nearly complete. Maulana Az'ad Madani, Jamaat-e-Ulema-e-Hind President, will preside over the function, to be inaugurated by Indian Union Muslim League President Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait.

Among the prominent Muslims listed among the speakers at the inaugural meeting are Maulana Seyid Ahmed Hashimi M.P., General Secretary of the Jamaat-e-Ulema-e-Hind, Mr. Asseyid Ahmed Shihabuddin Imbich Koya Thangal, Grand Khazi of Calicut, and former Kerala Chief Minister C.H. Mohammed Koya.

Tackling unemployment

New Delhi, (UNI) - The number of educated unemployed in the rural areas in India is nearly 12.8 million and those in urban areas nearly 4.1 million, according to a survey conducted by the National Samples Survey Organisation.

The Government had set up a working group to evaluate this problem and suggest ways and means for finding employment avenues for these people during the Sixth Plan period.

The draft Sixth Five-Year Plan, which was presented to the parliament earlier, had dealt with these problems in detail and had also gone into various measures designed to bring down the number of unemployed.

Among the various schemes which have been already approved, it is proposed to provide technical education and training centres in rural areas for the benefit of the educated unemployed to enable them to find useful vocations.

Government is also trying to broadbase these schemes as also to open more district employment centres. In addition each branch of the nationalised banks has been asked to provide at least two self employment scheme loans to these persons. Some 7,000 persons will benefit from this scheme.

Foreign ventures not implemented

New Delhi, (UNI) - As many as 161 proposals for Indian enterprises abroad out of 399 sanctioned by the Indian Government were not implemented.

Giving this information in Parliament, Minister of State for Commerce Khurshed Alam Khan said the government would take greater care in approving new proposals.

Mr. Khan said the proportion of joint ventures incurring losses had come down from 41 to 37 per cent in 1978-79.

Besides nine projects - four in Malaysia, two in Mauritius and one each in Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, including those initiated by the Indian Industrialist houses, belonging to the Birla and Kirloskar groups were continuously incurring losses for the last three years.

Oil firms bid

New Delhi, (UNI) - The Indian Government, faced with a staggering annual oil import bill exceeding 6,250 million dollars, has decided to intensify its oil exploration drive and has offered contracts to foreign firms on terms of production sharing. Off-shore and on-shore areas have been earmarked for oil exploration.

The government, by entering into this venture, hopes to cover the gap between indigenous availability and demand of crude as early as possible.

Foreign firms numbering 34 picked from out of a total of 67 that responded to global tenders include the seven internationally known major oil companies grouped as the "Seven Sisters". Negotiations will take place with these firms for final selection and contract for oil production.

Under the proposed arrangements, the contractor firm would be required to sell the share of oil to the Indian Government at a fair market price. Preference would be given to parties that offer to sell their entire share of oil to the Government.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) will be a party to the "operating agreement" as the Government's nominees. ONGC will be a non-operating party in the exploration phase and thereafter have full rights accruing to a 'non-operating' partner for effective say in decision-making.

After the short-listed parties, which include oil companies from the United States, France, United Kingdom, West Germany, Canada and Japan, have submitted their detailed specific bids after clarificatory technical discussions with ONGC, their offers would be scrutinised and evaluated by the Government and the contracts would be finalised with the approval of the Indian Cabinet of Ministers.

Benefit from OPEC proposals

[From UNI Special Correspondent E.C. Thomas]

Bali, (Indonesia), (UNI) - India will benefit most among oil importing developing countries when various proposals for aid by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are finalised next year, according to senior officials of OPEC now here for its annual ministerial meeting.

India's plea that its low per capita oil consumption and per capita income should be the basis for classification of oil importing developing countries for aid has gained acceptance from most of the OPEC member countries.

Proposals under OPEC's long-term strategy for aid to developing countries include creation of a special fund by setting apart ten per cent of the total earnings from future oil price increases by OPEC member countries and establishment of a development bank with a capital of 20 billion US dollars for assisting oil importing developing countries with low per capita oil consumption and per capita income.

These proposals are expected to be finalised at the next summit meeting of OPEC to be held some time in the new year. The summit that was to have been held in Baghdad in November last was postponed following war between Iraq and Iran.

Senior officials from the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna now here for OPEC's annual ministerial meeting beginning on December 15 told a group of journalists from the developing countries of Asia that security of oil supplies and substantial expansion of financial aid would be the major concern of OPEC for developing countries in the coming years.

OPEC member countries will also give preference to invest surplus funds in developing countries provided there is investment guarantee to underwrite the risk from the governments of countries where the funds are to be invested.

More child marriages

New Delhi, (UNI) - The incidence of child marriage is higher in the Northern States of India than in the Southern States.

This was stated by one of the speakers who addressed the orientation course of chairmen and members of the state Social Welfare Advisory Boards held here.

The Northern States where the incidence of child marriage is comparatively less are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

According to the Speaker, child marriages and infant mortality have gone down steeply in States where women's literacy is high, as is the case in Kerala.

The orientation course was organised by the New Delhi - based National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development.

Inaugurating the orientation course Mrs. Sushila Rohtagi, Chairman of the Central Social Welfare Board, said it was the duty of every social worker to tap the enormous fund of goodwill available in each State for welfare work. The widening gap between the rich and the poor might necessitate a reappraisal of social welfare plans in each State taking into account the peculiar problems facing the villagers, the slumdwellers, the pavement dwellers and others, she added.

The orientation course was organised to discuss, among other things, the modern concept of social welfare, social welfare legislation and mobilisation of community resources.

Participants in the orientation course felt that there was a crying need for balanced development of both urban and rural areas. At present the bulk of the financial assistance was being allotted to cities and little to far flung areas, they said.

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IMAGE

The image of Indo-Canadians received a boost from the last month's 20 minute program on CBC's Fifth Estate as reported in the last issue of this paper. The intention of the program was not propaganda. It was informative, unbiased and interesting. Many more such programs can help in lowering the bias towards Indo-Canadians.

The fact that Fifth Estate is produced by Adriane Clarkson, a woman born in Hong Kong, may have something to do with the unbiased nature of the program. That points to the need for many Indo-Canadians to become involved in the media both electronic and print. Such involvement has to be at all levels. This is something individuals can do.

Organizations should try to get the media involved in positive aspects of the culture and accomplishments of the community. In order to stimulate the production of such programs as the one seen on the Fifth Estate, National Association of Canadians of Origins in India (NACOI) may have to chalk out an action plan. Some research is needed on questions such as : What are the types of TV and radio programs where Indo-Canadians could be shown in a positive light? Who are the people that should be approached? What are the resources they may need? How they can be assisted in the production of these programs? Similar research is also needed for the print media.

We hope in the next few years many such programs will be produced and that they will have a favourable impact on our image.

Exports to UAE

Bombay, (UNI) - India can increase its share in the rapidly expanding trade with the United Arab Emirates, according to UAE General Council in India, Ebrahim Jawad.

Mr. Jawad said in an interview here that UAE's imports which advanced from dh 20.77 billion in 1978 to dh 16.53 billion in 1979 were expected to reach an all time record of dh 35.50 billion this year.

Imports are becoming necessary to meet UAE's growing internal demands and expansion of industries, and partly to meet the requirements of the neighbouring gulf countries.

Mr. Jawad said with the expansion of industries in the UAE, India can expect to export goods comprising cattle, beverage and tobacco, chemicals, raw materials, mineral fuels and transport equipment besides other articles.

India, he said, had registered a declining export potential from 1977 to 1979. This indicated that India should make a determined effort to regain its previous share in the UAE market.

Expanding his statement, he said India's import, which was around 4.1 per cent in 1977, declined to 3.0 per cent in 1978. It further dropped to 2.7 per cent last year.

When asked whether the character of UAE's export trade was also undergoing change, he explained that the exports from UAE had also registered an increase in the last three years.

Besides oil and gas exports, UAE had been exporting scrap metals, hides, skins, dates and dry fruits, he said.

Mr. Jawad pointed out that UAE would be supplying drilling rigs to India.

UAE, he said, was now a strong nation self-sufficient in matters of economy and politics. Mr. Jawad said only five or six years ago UAE had no industry to boast of. But now a number of industries have sprung up.

U.S. aid again

New Delhi, (UNI) - Four agreements providing for $100 million by way of loan and grant for financing development projects in India have been signed between India and USA.

One agreement for grant of $9.4 million is to further assist the government of India's model plan for basic health and family planning services in selected districts in five states.

Other three agreements for loans are for fertiliser inputs ($35 million), agricultural credit through support of the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation's lending programs for minor irrigation ($35.6 million) and medium irrigation projects in Rajasthan ($20 million).

Space program forges ahead

New Delhi, (UNI) - India has achieved the capability to manufacture and launch intermediate-range ballistic missiles, space research scientists have said.

Basic capability has been achieved not only in the booster technology, which in fact is smoothly progressing towards sending high-altitude heavy weight satellite in orbit, but also in essential systems for payload and booster guidance, re-entry, mobile ground controls telemetry and higher resolution optical and infra-red sensing devices.

Senior science managers of India's space programmes point out that the research is committed to peaceful needs as a matter of policy. However, they say the project engineers and scientists working on the Satellite Launch Vehicles (SLV) - SLV-3 was launched successfully in July this year - have developed a pool of information which will make India self-sufficient in this branch of space technology.

Experimentally, highly technical systems of heat protection and guidance have been test-rated, it is learnt. "All they need is further refining", a senior scientist said when talking of sensitive trajectory and position correlation instruments now being developed for the peaceful space programme.

Launch guidance systems have been thoroughly tested and the principle was used in the successful SLV-3 and the minor launches preceeding it.

For the booster itself, rapid research in the last five years has shown India's competence in both solid state rocket propellents -- some of which are said to be better than similar polymer fuels developed in other countries -- as also in liquid motors. Development is now under way to refine the liquid fuel motors for using liquid hydrogen instead of hydrazine which is now being used in the fourth stage motors of SLV-3.

Research is also under way to further improve on-board computer systems for control and guidance systems as also for miniaturised telemetry systems.

India is confident that it will develop before the end of the decade rockets for satellite synchronising with the movement of the sun to orbit at an altitude of 36,000 km. But such rockets cannot be put into application until India has a launcher with geo-synchronous capability. Towards this objective, the Space Department's 1000 million dollar plan for the decade 1980-90 schedules an SLV-3 launch every six months and makes adequate provision for developing in stages capability for geo-synchronous launches. As many as 23 satellites, including two major ones with payload in the 450-600 kg range, are being lined up by over 10,000 scientists and engineers of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

From March 1981 onwards India will launch two SLV-3 satellites every year beginning with the Rohini development series called Rs-one-D-One aboard the SLV-3-D-one advanced rockets. All the launches will carry technological and scientific payloads heavier than the one carried in July last by the Rs-one on the SLV-3-E-two. Before the coming summer the Rohini satellite to be launched will carry payload weighing 40 kg -- i.e five kg more than the one orbiting at the altitude of 900 km.

The crowning glory of ISRO would come with the launching in 1986 of its indigenously built 600 kg Indian remote sensing satellite (RIS-one) aboard the equally heavy Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) incorporating the latest in propellent technology.

This will herald an entirely new chapter in space research from the 1990's when India will think in terms of material research in outer space in space stations where Indian cosmonauts will collaborate with Soviet cosmonauts, for which an agreement has already been signed.

According to Dr. Satish Dhawan, Chairman of the Space Commission, it will not be advisable to delay development of satellites to suit the availability of launchers. Time is an important factor and India must lead in any sophisticated field of technology, he said.

Dr. Dhawan said the United Kingdom had asked a visiting ISRO team recently whether India would be able to launch British satellites if the PSLV was successful. This only speaks for Indian research as United Kingdom which was the sixth nation to launch a satellite, has now conceded its position to India.

ISRO will also seek to benefit from the launching of the Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment (APPLE) from Kowrou in French Guiana by the European Space Agency (ESA) sometime in June this year. APPLE is India's first experimental communication satellite built indigenously to be placed in geo-synchronous orbit over the earth.

India is paying ESA 25 million dollars for the launch.

Indian satellite (INSAT), a communication satellite having 12 transponders with three channels for colour TV and a very high resolution radio metre for providing meteorogical data for ISRO for further research when it is launched in February 1982 by the NASA from Cape Kennedy.

U.N. human rights and the constitution

M.S. Tomar, Vice-President U.N. Ass'n. Halifax-Dartmouth Branch

Every year we observe United Nations Human Rights Day on December 10. Most of the times this day has passed without much publicity. But this year, its importance lies in the constitutional debate in the country. Almost everybody agrees that patriation of the constitution is long overdue, but entrenchment of human rights in that important document is a bone of contention between the Federal government and majority of its provincial counterparts.

The nation is divided on this issue as well. In general, nobody is against the human rights which are fundamental to the existence and dignity of the human beings. But they differ on the issue of "entrenchment of these rights in the constitution".

Many Premiers say that their governments were capable of guaranteeing these rights to the people, and they had demonstrated in the past that the provincial governments being closer to the people in their provinces were better placed to understand and handle the issue more effectively. They maintain that "status quo" was desirable, and it was in the best interest of the people as well.

Some opponents say that entrenching human rights in the constitution would prevent Parliament and the legislatures from passing laws designed to meet the day-to-day challenges of human dignity. This is more of concern to the believers in the preservation of human rights rather than the politicians. Human rights are left neither to periodic adjustments nor are a subject to any compromise. They are fundamental to human dignity, and they should be left untouched. If the politicians want to play with them, their intentions should be considered questionable. This apprehension would lead people to believe that the best guarantee for human rights was in their entrenchment in the constitution itself, nothing less.

If the politicians believe that the courts, instead of the elected representatives, will be deciding such issues based on the constitutional provisions, I don't think there is anything wrong in allowing the legal experts to interpret the legalities of the constitution. Here, I think, it is appropriate to quote from the Government of Canada publication Explanation of a proposed Resolution respecting the Constitution of Canada: "Traditionally the courts have settled disputes between citizens and the state, and, in the future, they will have the guidance of a Charter to assist in this. The basic question is not whether an entrenched Charter gives more power to the courts or less power to the legislatures. The important point is that, in future, governments, legislatures and courts alike will be obliged to respect and defend the rights of all Canadians. "Even after this explanation, if some people are apprehensive of the courts, I think they cast doubt on the impartiality of our courts, and if it is true, then in my opinion it is a very unfortunate situa-

(Continued on Page 5

A cultur Canada

Excerpts from a presentation to the National Conference to the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism by Dr. Gurbachan S. Paul

Before embarking on a critique of Canada's multicultural policy, I wish to clearly state where I stand on this issue. It is undoubtedly a well-intentioned policy; its basic intent being to foster a better understanding and acceptance of all cultures as equal and worthy of maintenance and promotion. Just as a brief background it may be appropriate here to summarize the status of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism. The Council was created to serve as an advisory body to the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism. It became a kind of buffer between the Minister and ethno-cultural groups. The Directorate of Multiculturalism was created to devise and implement programs to meet the needs of the ethno-cultural communities across Canada.

Multicultural Policy

In the evolution of the Council one can detect three distinct stages. In its first stage, the formative years, the Council tried to gauge public response to multiculturalism by encouraging and funding what are generally referred to as the song dance rituals. The government accepted the song dance rituals to test the political climate for multiculturalism and found the environment generally conducive. The second stage, the coming-to-terms stage, went a step further. It used the conference and the workshop mechanism to affect a more substantive influence on the larger community. The Council began to concern itself seriously with broader issues such as languages, media and education. The Council's involvement in human rights and immigration activities also resulted in numerous briefs being presented to the government. In its third stage, the take-off stage of development, the Council made a serious shift from its narrow ethno-cultural focus to broader Canadian issues, especially through its representation to the Debate on National Unity and the government's Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Several factors led to the relative ineffectiveness of the CCCM. Here, let me reiterate my earlier contention, that the policy had intrinsic merit. It was broad enough to fit any implementation mechanism. The Council may have proved to be the most effective means of implementing the policy, had two factors not impeded its progress.

The Ethnic Leaders

The ethnic leaders were partly responsible for the diffusion and misdirection of the multicultural policy. The first group of ethnic leaders were first generation Eastern Europeans, who, in most cases, had divided loyalties. To them culture meant only the visual and performing arts. They were not able to comprehend culture as an everyday living reality, nor were they able to perceive how their own culture could gell into the Canadian milieu

A cultural policy for Canada

Excerpts from a presentation to the National Conference to the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism by Dr. Gurbachan S. Paul

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The Ethnic Leaders

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The second generation was not overly concerned about the problems of the home country since it was born and brought up in an environment different from that of the first generation ethnics. It sought solutions to indigenous problems, such as cultural-duality or pluralism.

The multicultural program did not have the scope or depth to address these problems ... hence another set of expectations were not fulfilled.

The Directorate of Multiculturalism

The Directorate of Multiculturalism did not become an effective administrative arm of the Council. Instead it began to operate as a Crisis Management Division due to the three factors stated above, namely,

(1) inability of any constituent group to give clarity to the multicultural policy.
(2) constant shift of the focus of activities of the Council, and
(3) the problems with ethnic leadership.

And, finally, the political uncertainties that resulted from frequent changes in Ministers responsible for Multiculturalism.

The Directorate of Multiculturalism in the Department of the Secretary of State, was not able to muster the dedication of a sufficient number of civil servants who could explain its policies and programs to the people of Canada. Furthermore, the Directorate was unable to devise an effective system of program delivery. The attempts made by field officers to establish ongoing rapport with the local ethnic groups often proved ineffective. Their general lack of enthusiasm resulted in discouraging the ethnic groups from applying for grants from government.

Furthermore, the multicultural programs of the Directorate lacked in devising specific mechanisms for dealing with the questions of equality of participation in economic, political and educational opportunities for the so-called "other ethnic groups". It is true that some of the ethnic groups such as the Italians and East Indians have been able to improve their respective economic positions during the last ten years, however, there is no indication that their overall social status - that is their political power and social class stature - has improved in Canadian society, and that the multicultural programs had any role to play in affecting this improvement.

The federal government has also not lived up to its original promise made at the inception of the policy in 1971 namely, making multiculturalism a policy for all Canadians. Supported by all political parties as the motherhood-and-apple-pie formula for universal harmony, it was tossed around the political arena, as and when needed, without being accorded the dignity of a major portfolio with a respectable budgetary allocation. Ten million dollars, or a little less was considered sufficient to quieten the multicultural apologists.

Quebec

It seems to me that the federal government continued to worry lest its policy of multiculturalism may upset the Quebec faction...as if the policy of multiculturalism was an appendage to the policy of bilingualism, with no independent legitimacy of its own. Sometimes the policy was used as a political pacifier for a Western ethno-cultural faction or leader. And, as a consequence of being put to such superficial use, the policy became a ceremonial symbol. Every now and then it was dusted off and brought down from the shelf to be proudly displayed before a select company, only to be placed back into obscurity until a similar occasion arose again. The policy has not become vital to Canada, it never features in serious national deliberations. The following examples may serve to illustrate my point.

First, when the federal government struck a Cultural Policy Review Committee, the Multicultural Council was not asked for participation or representation. There was a deliberate attempt to maintain a balance between Quebec, Ontario and other regions. Apart from regional representation, the group was mainly representative of the traditional visual and performing arts. Despite the Council's recommendation that a representative from the ethno-cultural community be appointed, nobody has been appointed as yet.

Second, the recent constitutional developments have completely ignored any reference to Canada as a multicultural society. During the last two years the demand for constitutional guarantees and equality of all cultures has consistently emerged from ethno-cultural groups across the country. The government's studied indifference to this demand points to the fact that it is not sensitive to a segment of the electorate that consists of close to fifty per cent of the population of Canada to the west of Quebec. This is a serious omission, which may have far reaching political consequences.

In summary, it is important to remind ourselves that the aspirations of the ethno-cultural groups across Canada do not intend to undermine the historical reality of the country with its French and English linguistic duality. However, in our attempt to uphold the historical concepts of "cultural duality" and "the two founding nations", we should not become oblivious to the present day reality of Canada, which is its cultural diversity. Increasingly, we hear from the ethno-cultural groups on the subject of giving recognition and credit to their contributions to Canadian society. They are no longer content to be treated as second class citizens, who are stereotyped in certain more manual professions and occupations. Having thrown in their lot with their country of adoption, they want the freedom to express their cultural needs, and not be looked down upon by the larger society for doing so. Furthermore, they are beginning to believe in their right (and for second generation Canadians it is a birth right) to have full and complete access to all Canadian institutions, so as to participate in them to the fullest extent possible, regardless of their race, colour, sex or ethnic origin.

Quo va dis?

It seems quite clear to me that there is an urgent need for a fresh holistic approach to the development of culture in Canada. The present piece-meal approach to culture - with separate programs and administrative agencies for the native peoples, for the main linguistic communities and the so-called "others" (including the Third World groupings) - has not worked for any of the groups discussed above.

There has been far too much forced assimilation in Canadian society. The so-called "other ethnic groups" have been pressured to adapt to the institutions of the majority groups, with no reciprocal or reverse adaptation. Racial and discriminatory attitudes have placed and continue to place "other ethnic groups" in disadvantaged positions from which they are viewed as "second class citizens". Furthermore, these same "others" have not been accorded legitimacy as "political collectivities", which can negotiate on their own behalf with the decision makers. They do not have the means to influence important cultural decisions which affect their lives.

To be continued

U.N. Human rights

(Continued from Page 4)

tion. We must ask them to clarify their position on this most sensitive issue. We are proud of the impartiality and integrity of our courts. I would like to assure such people that our courts are capable of handling these issues and we should feel safe in their hands.

National bodies like the Federal Human Rights Commission, Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the National Action Committee and other human rights advocates, lawyers and minority groups agree that a Charter of human rights should be entrenched in the constitution. The only section being questioned by most of them is that all rights are "subject only to such reasonable limits as are generally accepted in a free and democratic society. "I tend to agree to these limitations provided they are applied sparingly, justifiably and universally. But the federal government's indifference to the question of a group widely known for their hate literature and racist activities does not help calm the fears of many groups in the country. The government must use this provision before it is too late. The U.N. Charter says, "...human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspirations of the common people". So, in this regard I would like to go along with the views of the Chairman of the Federal Human Rights Commission, Gordon Fairweather, that the proposed Charter of human rights does not go far enough to allay the fears of the minorities and other disadvantaged groups in the country. I think they are the ones who really need to be guaranteed these human rights.

The U.N. recognizes "that human rights should be protected by the rule of law". Every province in the country supported the Canadian Government when it went to the United Nations and adhered to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Today, most of the provinces have their Bills of Rights and Human Rights Commissions, and feel proud of these institutions. We all believe in the U.N. Charter of Human Rights. The Government of Canada, irrespective of their party differences, have always stood by the Charter. Our delegates through their participation at the international conferences have championed the cause of human rights in the world. Then isn't it surprising that we want to use double standards in this regard? Shouldn't we entrench these human rights and freedoms in our constitution, and allow our future delegates to the U.N. and other international conferences to walk with honour and dignity? This is a great moment for us; let it not slip by because of our personal differences.

TM beneficial to youth

New Delhi, (UNI) - A pilot study conducted in India by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), has revealed that transcendental meditation (tm) expounded by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi can help young men and women fully utilise their minds in finding quick and pragmatic solutions to personal and domestic problems.

The study was conducted on a group of 260 odd students in government schools here by a team led by Dr. J.S. Gaur, Reader, NCERT's Department of Education and Psychology.

The study had been undertaken to determine the effect of the practice of transcendental meditation on certain psychological and educational variables.

The study explains that transcendental meditation is a natural, spontaneous, effortless and enjoyable process which brings about natural changes in psychological and physiological functions by releasing the stresses and strains.

Book review
A potful of blood

-- The New Literature of Protest In India.

By A.F. Ashtamud.

In a language that is often brutal and crude, the soul-searing disabilities of untouchability, of grinding poverty and inhuman oppression are being daringly reflected in a newly emerging, strikingly powerful Indian literature -- the literature of the Harijans. And nowhere is this more poignantly captured than in the writings o the Dalits of Maharashtra.

This new literary movement has begun to win recognition, albeit minimal, from the Indian literary establishment as a valid form of expression articulating the vital experience of a new social consciousness. Its social relevance can hardly be missed. It draws its inspiration from the life and experiences of the oppressed segments of Indian society and its struggles for securing basic human rights. Its style is also new; racy, earthy, and colloquial. Its language is that of the streets, slums and untouchable ghettos.

Arun Kambles' poem translated by Gauri Deshpande was read last weekend at the Dalit Literary Workshop in Bombay. It is addressed to the Brahmin:

'If you were to live the life we live
(then out of you would poems arise)
We: kicked and spat at for our piece of bread
You: fetch fulfillment and name of the Lord.
We: down-gutter degraders of our heritage
You: its sole repository and descendants of the sage.
We: never have a paisa to scratch our arse
You: the golden cup of offerings in your bank.
Your bodice flame in sandalwood
Ours you shovel under half-turned sand.
Wouldn't the world change, and fast,
if you were forced to live at last
this life that, if we've ever had?

And Waman Kardak, the folk poet sings:

'We will burn, but we will light the earth!'

The writings of the Dalits have interesting parallels with the American Black literature of the 1960's and 70's; representing as it does a new level of pride, militancy, and sophisticated creativity. The Marathi word 'Dalit' implies those who have been broken, ground down by those above them in a deliberate and active way. There is in the word itself an inherent denial of pollution, karma, and justified caste hierarchy. However, the clearest definition of 'Dalit' in its contemporary usage was given by professor Gangadhar Pantawane of Milind College in Aurangabad and founder editor of Asmitadarsh (mirror of identity), the chief organ of Dalit literature: "To me, Dalit is not a caste. He is a man exploited by the economic and social traditions of this country. He does not believe in God, Rebirth, Soul, Holy Books teaching Fate and Heaven, because they have made him a salve. He does believe in Humanism. Dalit is a symbol of change and revolution!"

In the Marathwada riots which saw Dalits and Buddhists opposed to their Maratha neighbours and the police, Daya Pawar ends a long poem with the image of the soldier of the Mahar Batallion lying in his room filled with tear gas:

'Mahar-Batallion Kamble,
legs lost in service,
stares in the dark with gas-burned eyes.
Who did I fight for there is the border?
Why was I crippled for this country?
The question pierces like a scream from the soul.
Now his hand gropes near the pillow
for the long-missing gun.'

As the most condemnatory of the poets, Namdeo Dhasal writes with more indignation than virulence:

'The very intelligent people
those who don't even know
the darkness under their asses--
they should poke their noses
like fifty-paisa prostitutes
even today
at men who are burning!'

And in He Mahan Desha (O great country), Dhasal ends with:

'...O great country
how can you be called great?
you don't see the charred waste burning at your feet.
Like Nero ydou play the sarangi
and sing sweetly of the Himalayas.'

Dhasal's poetry is far too complex to be appreciable in translation. Vijay Tendulkar perhaps the best known of the contemporary Marathi dramatists writes: 'Namdeo Dhasal's poetry...is the world of days of nights; of empty or half-full stomachs; of the pain of death; of tomorrows worries; of mens bodies in which shame and sensitivity have been burned out; of overflowing gutters; of a sick young body, knees curled to belly against the cold of death, next to the gutter; of the jobless; of beggars; of pickpockets; of Bairagi swamis; of Dada bosses and pimps; of Muslim tombs and Christian crosses; of film stars and gods on peeling walls above creaking beds; of hermaphrodites; of home-brewed liquor; of records of philosophical quawali; of hot sticky blood running at the price of water at any moment; of steaming tasteless cups of bright red tea; of smuggling; of naked knives; of opium...Dhasals Bombay where leprous women are paid the price and ..... on the road, where children cry near-by, where prostitutes waiting for business sing full-throated love songs, from where one cannot run to save one's life, or if one runs, one comes back-- here all seasons are pitiless, here all seasons have a contrary heart'.

Baburao Bagul, a Dalit prose writer has written, "Dalit Sahitya is not a literature of vengeance. Dalit Sahitya is not a literature which spreads hatred. Dalit Sahitya first promotes man's greatness and freedom and for that reason it is an historic necessity". He told the Dalit Literature Conference "Anguish, waiting, pronouncement of sorrow alone do not define Dalit literature. We want literature heroically full of life for the creation of a new society." And yet Bagul's story of Bombay 'Death is getting cheaper' is as violent as it is stark. His characters in this story are Christian, Muslim, Maratha, Madrasi, Mahar, all in one way or another defeated by hopeless poverty, crushed by the system, but they are real people and one cares for them. In 'Lutalut' (the looter, looted), prostitutes quarrel and the air around is charged with vulgarity and violence. But Bagul is clearly not a defeatist. One Dalit student of Bagul's writings published a poem recently in Bombay which won tremendous acclaim among the Militant Dalits (Dalit Panthers).

'If we must die', the poem begins, 'let it not be like hogs', hunted and penned in an inglorious spot, while round us bark the mad and hungry dogs!'. It ends with a rousing clarion call to action:

'O kinsmen, we must meet the common foe
though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one death blow
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!'

The Dalit writers are extremely interested in Black literature and see their own movement as a parallel phenomenon. Gangadhar Pantawane began his major essay on Dalit literature with a quotation from James Baldwin in English: "our humanity is our burden, our life, we need not battle for it, we need only to do what is infinitely difficult-- that is, accept it". Janardhan Waghmare, a professor who studied Black literature for his Ph.D. theses at Indiana University sees no difference between the 'place' of the Negro in America and the 'step' or level of the untouchable in India. The negro cannot change the color of his skin, nor the untouchable his caste. Ambedkar the Harijan leader of Maharashtra is reported to have told Gandhiji once

"Bapuji, I have no homeland", Now, one of the militant Dalit writers are saying:

'Those who by mistake were born here
should themselves correct this error
by leaving the country" or making war!'

The Dalits claim that the agonies and sufferings of the villages have been largely ignored by a people who have waxed eloquent over the glories of the past, the beauties of nature and the pangs of unrequited love. They argue that modern Indian literature, like the film, is neither serious nor honest, reflecting as it does the life and character of the upper and middle classes, its social arrangements, thoughts and emotions, while completely ignoring the social reality of poverty and oppression which dehumanizes the poorest of the poor in Indian society.

What is more interesting is that the Dalit writers view Indian independence with contempt for it has only served the interests of the higher castes and classes who have betrayed the nation. They juxtapose the claims of economic progress and social advancement made by the government with the sordid reality of the betrayal and degradation of the masses. For them Indian nationalism is a sham, a hoax perpetrated by the cunning of the rulers to mask the ugly reality which is the life they live. The Dalits say that India is scarcely their country, that it demands a potful of blood for a mouthful of water from the Dalits.

The Times of India once editorialized "it is inevitable for early Dalit literature to have given expression to the torments of an oppressed people. But the note of continued protest and indignation is beginning to pall... and writers should give a new direction to the Dalit literary movement"

Most Dalit writers would not agree. In one of the best received poems read at an open session of the Dalit literature Conference, a young woman poet Mina Gajbhije said:

In a song full of hope in the morning
There is no meaning.
This is a time to breathe battle.

The necessity and inevitability of a Dalit revolt is a persistent and nearly unanimous theme in Dalit literature even though there is disagreement about the nature of the forthcoming revolt and the inspiration behind it. One group led by Namdeo Dhasal is explicitly Marxist. In adopting the Marxist metaphor, Dhasal is more explicitly internationalist in his focus. For him the Dalit struggle is but a part of the larger struggle of the world's oppressed. Others such as Daya Pawar, Arjun Dangle, and Pralhad Chendwankaer, though not opposed to Marxism, try to find justification and inspiration from within the experiences of the Dalits and within Buddhism as preached by Ambedkar. Whether it is Buddha or Marx (as the antagonists in the ideological debate put it) the literature of the Dalits is seen as a tool to forge and sharpen the social and political consciousness of the Harijans. As Namdeo Dhasal put it, "poetry is a class weapon which might be transformed into a political weapon."

The urge to creativity among India's oppressed untouchables may find different voices in the future, but they will not be stifled.

Indo-Japanese collaboration

New Delhi, (UNI) Japan has indicated willingness to participate on an expanded basis in priority areas like mining, oil exploration, petro-chemicals and fertilisers and power development in India.

This view emerged after a two-day meeting of the 13th Joint Meeting of the India-Japan Business Co-operation Committee which ended here recently.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) President K N. Modi said the Japanese delegation also expressed interest in collaborations in India as well as in third countries on labour-intensive items which were being imported into Japan from other countries provided they fulfilled the rigid quality and competitive price requirements of Japanese importers.

Lawyers indispensable?

Calcutta, (UNI) - Justice H.R. Khanna, former Indian Supreme Court judge, has said that in the modern age it would not be possible to do away with the functioning of lawyers in courts.

Inaugurating a national seminar here on "Lawyers in the Adjudicatory Process" Justice Khanna said the law today was a "bewildering jungle" of rules and wondered how, when precedents confounded both the lawyers and the judges, an ordinary citizen, perhaps uneducated and illiterate, would conduct his defence in a court successfully.

An ordinary citizen could not face arguments on technical grounds based on a section of a statute or on precedents or decisions of the courts to which he had no access, he added.

Justice Khanna said even the intelligent and educated laymen had little, and sometimes no skill in the science of law. If charged with crime, he was incapable of assessing whether the indictment was good or bad.

FILMS

INSAF KA TARAZU

Produced and directed by B R Chopra
Written by S Kumar

The late Sahir Ludhianavi sums up the theme of **Insaf Ka Tarazu** in an Urdu poem which is the fourth and last song of the film. Victim of rape, unable to get justice from society and law, voices her feelings in frustration. Man considers woman as a body, without soul, without a mind of her own. For man woman is an object of pleasure. A raped woman is like a walking corpse, neither alive nor dead, finding neither sympathy nor solace, justice for her is of course out of question.

Rape has been receiving a lot of attention these days from sociologists, law-makers and interpreters, libbers and law-enforcers. Incidents of rape coming to public notice have been increasing lately. In majority of such cases the onus of proof rests on the victim, which is difficult if not impossible to provide. Were there a witness to a rape incident, the rape would not have been committed. Putting the rape victim in the dock, tracing her past history, imagiend or real, asking many embarrassing questions and cross-examining her is equal to another "rape." She is often declared, by the defendant, a woman of ill-repute, a seductress, promiscuous or willing. Many a victim cannot live it down. Even in the West, many women after the rape or rape trial have found it undignified and dishonourable to live. They either become psychic or take their own lives. For a rape victim living is worse than death, in a man's world.

The rape victim in **Insaf Ka Tarazu** asks: For how long will the dastardly man's inhumanity on woman continue?

At the Bangalore film festival, last January, there was a foreign film, **A Scream From Silence**, [DW dated February 3, 1980) which discussed in detail the sociology, legality and reaction of the rape victims. Many victims were interviewed and their cases studied at some length. In majority of cases, the rape victims suffer in silence, afraid of giving publicity to their plight and helplessness. **A Scream From Silence** was such a searing condemnation of rape and its consequences on the victim that one left the hall a sadder and wiser man. It was a cultural and emotional shock. We are afraid the same cannot be said of **Insaf Ka Tarazu.**

Director B R Chopra and writer S Kumar have "commercialized" rape in **Insaf Ka Tarazu**. They have not considered tackling "the social and legal aspects of rape," as the blurb screams. The storyline is somewhat similar to the foreign film **Lipstick**.

Bharati, a fashion model, living with her younger school-going sister, is in love with a compere. A playboy millionaire takes fancy to and showers favours on her. But when ignored becomes jealous and rapes her. She goes

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Bharati, a fashion model, living with her younger school-going sister, is in love with a compere. A playboy millionaire takes fancy to and showers favours on her. But when ignored becomes jealous and rapes her. She goes to the court, for want of concrete evidence the rapist is acquitted. Bharati's emotional and moral pleadings that a rapist would get encouragement this way and be a greater danger to society - are of no avail. Law is law and there must be concrete evidence to punish a criminal.

The rapist is emboldened and at the first opportunity rapes Bharati's younger sister too. Bharati's anger knows no bound. She picks up a revolver, seeks out the rapist and fires a full round at him. She is hauled up for murder, but by a curious logic is acquitted, though there were two witnesses to the murder. The judge quits the job as an act of repentence for letting off the rapist earlier.

The subject is topical. One cannot deny that certain legal and social aspects of the issue of rape are taken up. Yet the overall impact is more of entertainment, to some of a cheap kind, than a serious approach. So much of it is courtroom drama where rhetoric and declamations are as much in evidence as the legal battle between the defendant and prosecutor. The funny part of the film is that a person who is a defendant council in the rape case act as the prosecutor in the murder trial before the same court. The rape and murder have taken place in two different towns, but it is the same magistrate who tries the cases, as also in the prologue where a military officer (Dharmendra) is in the dock to defend himself on a murder charge. Dharmendra's dialogue is stolen from Gulzar's **Achanak.** Gulzar, in turn, adopted and expanded Charlie Chaplin's dialogue in **Monsieur Verdoux** - killing many people in a war is patriotic but killing one anti-social man is crime.

Dr. Shreeram Lagoo, as the defendant and prosecutor is comical in his actions and arguments while Simi as the defence council, in the rape trial, is sober and logical. It is the comicality of the prosecutor that prevails upon the judge. Why doesn't the eye-witness (the rape victim's younger sister) point to signs of struggle? Or, why is the rape victim's medical report, especially signs of struggle on her face, discussed in the courtroom drama? These questions are left unanswered. Nor is a solution suggested.

Zeenat Aman not only shows her body as a fashion model but also her plight and misery as a rape victim. Padmini Kolhapure, the new entrant, is maturing into a fine actress. As the prosecutor in the rape trial Simi Grewal is impressive but for her heroine-like make-up. Iftekhar as judge is sober and sanguine.

As the playboy-rapist Raj Babbar acts with cool and calm confidence. Deepak Prasher is good only as the fashion show compere, and nothing else.

Technical values are first-class. Dharam Chopra's cinematography is creative and consistent in quality.

ZALIM

Directed by B Subhash
Produced by Ram Singh

After the phenomenal success of Javed-Salim, it has become a fashion to write films in teams. We have Suraj-Sanim and others too. In **Zalim**, Faiz-Salim have attempted to write an exciting crime thriller but which is so artlessly told that anyone with above-average intelligence could predict what was to come next.

Zalim, the title of the film, does not stand for cruel killers or professional oppressors but for the 'respectful' society people who have acquired status through black deeds. The film's strong point is that it narrates how innocent and honest people are drawn into the criminal net by anti-social elements. Only the fortunate ones come out unscathed. The two who come out unscathed in **Zalim** are the hero (Vinod Khanna) and heroine (Leena Chandavarkar). The hero's father is a police IG, and the heroine's a magistrate. They are both charged of murder by the upright police inspector but the confession of their benefactor saves them from the ignominy.

Why Laxmikant Pyarelal have not worked hard on the song compositions of their "presentation" (**Zalim**) is a riddle.

Since Pran and Ashok Kumar popularized qawwali singing in competition, it has become a cliche of formula films, especially when Pran and Ashok Kumar are featured in films, even if singly.

If Vinod Khanna seems lost in the film, it is understandable. A crime-thriller is either a writer's or a director's film. Pran has a meatier role than Vinod Khanna. Playing 'Laddan Miyan Carpetwalla,' Pran has given himself a new get-up and Bhopali accent. Without conscious upstaging, he steals the show in almost every frame. And the finale, the court-room drama, belongs to him. Iftekhar plays, with his usual naturalness, his set screen role - a police officer. The IG Police is, however, Rehman, who, perhaps for the first time essays such a character.

The eternal villain of Hindi cinema, Madan Puri, plays the villain of the piece with a certain deceptiveness. Two character artists featuring in **Zalim** are no more: V. Gopal, who was coming up fast as a comedian, and Brahm Bhardwaj who mostly featured as the judge.

Leena Chandcavarkar is no more the lean and lovely Leena who with her debut-making film **Man Ka Meet** captured the hearts of many. Nirupa Roy is an embodiment of Indian motherhood.

Its cinematography does not seem to be the work of one of our ace cinematographers: Radhu Karmakar. His name is there in the credits. But if it is the work of his assistants only - Abhoy Shanker and Santaram Bhonsle - then it is tolerable.

FESTIVAL OF FILMS

Directed by Baby
Organised by Delhi Malayalee Film Society

What is Hrishikesh Mukerjee and Gulzar to Hindi cinema, Baby is to Malayalam cinema. Baby's films may not have that much technical polish and artistic finesse as those of Hrishikesh Mukerjee, at times they may be crude but they are never base and downright exploitative. He is a commercial film-maker of course, but he draws a limit, unlike Sasi, who would, if the censor permitted, not hesitate to give you a blue film.

Going by his two films, one can say that Baby is a simple and clean entertainer. **Pappu**, Baby's latest, is a Malayalam remake of a Hindi movie, **Mein Sundar Hoon** starring Mahmood the comedian, working as a waiter and aspiring to become a matinee idol. **Mein Sundar Hoon** itself was a remake of a successful Tamil film starring South's popular comedian Nagaish whom Mahmood has imitated in many Hindi remakes.

In **Pappu**, the central male role of a waiter-cum-matinee idol is performed by Pratap Pothan who is endowed with a rubbery face capable of a variety of distortions and expressions. Pratap Pothan does not imitate either Nagaish or Mahmood, though in physical build-up he is nearer to Nagaish than Mahmood. The screen play of **Pappu** is such that there is more of verbal than visual comedy in it, though Pratap Pothan with his broad gestures and wide expressions tries to impart the film a visual humour. Where Nagaish and Mahmood can lift a film on their own comic shoulders, Pothan cannot. Here he has to depend on his co-star Seema, the **Her Nights'** girl, whose charms of the feminine figure almost every film-maker has come to exploit though not in the same manner as those of Jayabharati (of **Man Ka Angan and Pratishodh** fame).

Not surprisingly, many South Indian starlets ape their Bombay counterparts in make-up, dress and mannerism. In every way Srilata and Seema look Hindi film actresses, in no way from Kerala. May be the intention is to enter the Hindi film world or just to compete with the glamour gals of the Hindi screen, to be popular with their own fan following or both. After all, every actress in the regional cinema or art film wishes to be absorbed in the Hindi film or commercial cinema. We have the instances of Sharda in one case and Smita Patil in the other.

In many parts of India snake-worship is a religious practice, in some regions it is a social custom. **Sarpam** ("Serpent")-story, screen-play and direction by Baby is not much of a commercial film though an effort seems to have been made to make it commercial. It is meant specially for those having faith in snakes like Latha who worships snakes though her husband hates them. It is only when he discovers that he has faith in 'a more poisonous snake' his uncle, that he realises his folly.

Snakes have a great "role" in **Sarpam.** We have in the film snake fights, and a fight between a snake and a mongoose-both the fights seem real.

Sarpam gives a glimpse of the athletic youthfulness of Jayan who died, last month, while enacting a stunt on a helicopter. Next to Prem Nazir and Madhu, he was the popular matinee idol in Kerala, having worked in more than 100 films in a variety of roles.

PHIR WAHI RAAT

Directed by Danny Denzongpa, Produced by N N Sippy

Every actor aspires to become a director one day. Direction gives the person entire control of the film. An actor does contribute to a film, through his talent, experience and sensibility but it is the director who akes or unmakes a film.

actors, in the recent past, have taken to direction. Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand and Vijay Anand belong to the old guard who have also taken to direction. Dilip Kumar is said to direct the films he works in. The second rung of actor-directors are Feroz Khan and Sanjay Khan, among others. Asrani and Danny are the two Pune Film Institute Alumni (acting course) who while making a career for themselves in acting have taken to direction also. The other name that comes to mind is that of Subhash Ghai, a product of Pune Film Institute, who failed to make the grade as actor and later took to direction and screenplay writing with great success. A few other students of the Pune Institute made their debuts as directors but as their films could not create any splash - Mani Kaul and Kumar Shahani - they are lying low. The latter category are in the New Wave cinema while Asrani and Danny are in the commercial sector.

Phir Wahi Raat is Danny's first directorial venture. He has chosen a very tricky subject - mystery and horror film - which in majority of cases is the cinematographer's film, and to a certain extent the technical department's. **Phir Wahi Raat** has a strange plot - hallucinations of a college girl who sees the devilish figure of a woman approaching her with outstretched hands and clawed fingers or moving away from her through mysterious doorways. As a young girl, she was a witness to the cruel strangulation of her mother and the uncanny, weird figure of the killer haunts her. A psychiatrist decides to get her rid of her hallucinations and takes her to the place where her mother was strangulated. Here much more mysterious things happen which make the plot complex. If at the end a filmgoer remains puzzled about who killed whom, may be the film-makers wanted it that way.

Eerie surroundings create an atmosphere of horror. Screams and musical effects add their own share to horror.

In spite of all this, Danny and his unit cannot compete with the Ramsay Brothers who specialize in horror films. Their films may be incoherent in narration, but the horror they create through simple effects and ordinary situations is more Hit-

[Darshak in Democratic World]

Canadian woman in Indian prison

New Delhi (AP) - The lawyer for a Canadian woman charged in connection with an international "drug and rob" ring said he has withdrawn a request that she be allowed to go home. In return, India's Supreme Court had agreed to speed up her various trials.

Lawyer N.M. Ghatate said the court denied his appeal to consolidate four separate cases against Marie Leclerc, 34, of Levis, Que. She has been tried in New Delhi, Benaras, Agra and Parwar on criminal charges ranging from drugging people to murder as a member of an international ring headed by Frenchman Charles Sobhraj.

Mr. Ghatate said Miss Leclerc, who has spent 4½ years in Indian prisons and law courts, wanted to return to Canada to visit her family.

The lawyer said the court passed an order giving priority to another three cases so they will be heard in quick succession following disposition of the New Delhi case on which she is appearing.

Miss Leclerc, who currently is staying in the Indian capital with a Canadian nun, was acquitted in two previous cases, including one of participation in a murder conspiracy.

Tea in demand

New Delhi, (UNI) - Indian tea is the seventh largest foreign exchange earner for the country. India exports tea to over 80 countries among which United Kingdom takes the largest share. Other buyers are the United States, the Soviet Union and Egypt and Afghanistan.

But tea exports have declined during the last few years, from 71.25 million dollars in 1977-78 to 37.50 million dollars in 1978-79. Quantities too fell, from 224 million kg in 1977-78 to 212 million kg in 1978-79.

India hopes to export a total of 230 million kg in the current year.

New pesticide

Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), (UNI) - Scientists at Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University here have developed a new pesticide called Phosphamidon to effectively control the damage done to linseed crop by linseed bud fly (Dasyneura Lini).

Scientists working on this pesticide have found that spraying of 255 millilitre of Phosphamidon per hectare twice a month at fortnightly intervals was more effective and economical than in the case of all other pesticides.

In an experiment conducted by the scientists, the bud damage in linseed crop after spraying was reduced to 11.7 per cent and the yield per hectare 1,015 kg, 42.7 per cent more.

WHETHER YOU DRIVE IMPAIRED,
FAIL THE BREATHALIZER, OR REFUSE IT,
YOU FACE A CRIMINAL CHARGE.

IF CONVICTED, YOUR LICENCE WILL BE SUSPENDED
FOR AT LEAST THREE MONTHS,
AND YOU WILL BE FINED UP TO $2,000.

YOU WILL HAVE A CRIMINAL RECORD.
YOU COULD GO TO JAIL.

YOU FACE INCREASED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATES
FOLLOWING A CONVICTION. AND IF YOU CAUSED
AN ACCIDENT, YOUR INSURANCE DOES NOT COVER
YOUR PERSONAL INJURIES, DAMAGE TO YOUR PROPERTY,
OR YOUR LOSS OF EARNINGS.

IF CONVICTED A SECOND TIME FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING,
YOU WILL GO TO JAIL FOR UP TO ONE YEAR.

YOU COULD KILL SOMEONE--FAMILY, FRIENDS,
INNOCENT BY-STANDERS, YOURSELF.

IN 1979 MORE THAN HALF OF THE DRIVERS KILLED
IN ONTARIO HAD BEEN DRINKING.

CHILLING FACTS

IF YOU DRINK,
DON'T DRIVE

Ontario

Roy McMurtry,
Attorney General
Solicitor General
William Davis, Premier

Rights of m

The Multicudltural Association of Fredericton with Gulshari R Saini as President recently submitted a report to the Special Joint Commission on the Canadian constitution.

The Multicultural Association of Fredericton, representing 31 local ethnic groups, has summarily acquainted its membership with the proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill.

Having considered all the main issues at stake, the association has reached the conclusion that the amendment bill leaves a lot to be desired both because of what it contains and even more so because of what it omits.

Curiously, its text nowhere refers explicitly to 'multiculturalism' nor does it use the term to denote this fundamental and immutable fact of life in Canadian society. It also does not contain any constitutional pledge that the relatively recently inaugurated policy of 'multiculturalism' will be perpetuated.

Although the proposed constitution begins with a statement affirming the will of Canadians to live and find their futures together in a federation based on equality and mutual respect", it nevertheless gives special recognition and privileges to English-speaking and French-speaking communities. If Canada is to belong to all Canadians, and if all Canadians are to owe allegiance to Canada without renounning their cultures, all Canadians must be constitutionally equal and none can be constitutionally more equal' than others. As the status quo continues to divide Canadians into those of 'superior' and those of 'inferior' cultures and thus into favored and underprivileged citizens, constitutional affirmative action is indispensable for cultural 'equalization' and constitutional elimination of ethno-cultural disparities. Accordingly, the new constitution ought to provide for ethno-cultural parity of all cultures-aboriginal and transplanted: Indian and Inuit, francophone, anglophone and allophone communities. The proposed text contains no blueprint for such long overdue remedial action and restoration of inalienable collective rights of all ethno-cultural groups.

The association believes that the proposal to amend the constitution provides a unique opportunity for Canadians to create a society in which there is equality and mutual respect of all ethno-cultural groups where people of all cultures have a sense of belonging and "feel at home". Should the new constitution fail in this regard, the association is of the opinion that this will be most detrimental to Canadian unity. Furthermore, it believes that unity will be achieved on the basis of supra-ethnic, multicultural solidarity and that any constitutional attempt to impose, instead of an equal partnership of all cultures, an Anglo-French Bicultural condomnium to replace the monocultural hegemony based on Anglo-conformity will alienate a large part of the population and lead to further disunity.

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The proposed text, therefore, is lacking in what the minority ethno-cultural groups need most for mere survival. The intended changes do not give any hope for such groups to achieve what already exists in Switzerland and elsewhere. The text does not offer even the equivalent of guarantees and rights established on paper in the Soviet and Yugoslav constitutions or actually implemented in those multicultural federal commonwealths.

The main shortcomings of the text under consideration are in the domain of language, education, representation and participation.

The association is of the opinion that the linguistic provisions are incompatible not only with ethno-cultural parity, but also with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN agreements on the prohibition of cultural genocide, racial and other kinds of discrimination. [+] Without detracting from the rights of the English and French to education in their languages, the association believes that all ethnocultural groups should enjoy the same rights and equivalent funding.

The Association also regrets that the government has not chosen to provide for a constitutional framework for a national educational system which could both forge stronger links of Canadian unity by providing direction in the areas of language, culture and history and develop a new Canadian identity based on multiculturalism.

The association further finds the text unsatisfactory because of its failure to ensure full representation and participation in the government of the heretofore under-represented and politically deprived ethno-cultural minority groups. For instance, the Governor General of Canada ought to be appointed in institutionalized order of rotation from the ranks of Indian and Inuit, Francophone, Anglophone and allophone Ethnic and immigrant groups and thus provide all Canadians with role models which were in the past and until now the exclusive privilege of the English and French.

The same concern applied to the representation of politically deprived ethno-cultural groups in the cabinet, House of Commons, House of Federation and all other federal institutions and agencies which ought to mirror Canada's 'multicultural' population.

Without such representation and participation the country might remain bicultural, but almost one third of all Canadians will continue to be without a direct voice in vital decision-making about their own future and, therefore, without full benefits of citizenship. Under those circumstances Canada will, constitutionally and politically, hardly qualify as a land of multicultural opportunity, let alone an ethnoculturally 'just society' with participatory democracy'.

INDIAN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY POISED FOR GROWTH

New Delhi, (UNI) - India would be producing electronic goods worth 2041 million dollars by the end of Sixth Five Year Plan (1984-85), according to Electronics Department.

By the end of the decade the production of electronics is expected to touch the 5000 million dollar mark.

Dayananda lectures in Toronto

SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI will be in Toronto for another ten-day talk series on

"VEDANTA: THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SELF"

Swami Dayananda is a master of Vedantic analysis and the Sanskrit language. He is the former director and principle teacher of the Sandeepany Teaching Academy in Bombay, and is an internationally recognized speaker.

Location: Medical Sciences Auditorium - University of Toronto Campus

Location: Medical Sciences Auditorium - University of Toronto Campus

Dates: January 19 to 28, 1981

Time: 7:30 to 9:00 PM

All are welcome! Admission is Free.
For Further Information Call 465-4902 or 239-9857

NEW FISHING RULES

Trivandrum, (UNI) - Kerala Governor Jothi Venkatachellum has promulgated an ordinance empowering the State Government to regulate, restrict or prohibit fishing in any specified area in the sea by any class of vessel.

Indian hotel in Mediterranean

Athens, (UNI) - India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) is planning to rebuild a chain of hotels in the Mediterranean countries.

According to corporation Chairman S.K. Misra, who held negotiations with tourism officials and businessmen in Greece and Cyprus last week, a team of experts has already been assigned to explore possibilities and formulate concrete proposals.

The experts would arrive here next month to follow up the discussions Mr. Misra had with the tourism bodies.

Mr. Misra and the business interests here agree that the Mediterranean countries, which were a meeting place for East and West, offered developing countries a chance to collaborate in joint ventures. Promotion of tourism to and from these countries itself offered major avenues.

Concern of South Asian Committee

Members of the South Asian Origins Liaison Committee with the Toronto Board of Education, like all parents of school children throughout Metropolitan Toronto, are deeply concerned for the safety of children who are unsupervised at lunch time and after school.

These concerns have been heightened following the recent death of a South Asian child in the Lawrence-Caledonia area.

In order to improve the safety of our children, the South Asian Origins Liaison Committee advises all parents to:

1) Tell their children never to talk to strangers.

2) Be sure they know at all times where their children are. If children go home alone at lunch time or after school while parents are working, parents should phone to check that they have arrived home safely.

3) Organize meetings at your children's schools to discuss with parents, teachers, and principals ways of improving neighborhood protection. These might include forming after school or lunch time programs, or organizing Block Parents' Associations.

For further information call:

Shamsher Singh Grewal
531-1191
763-1598

Rill Shah
532-3339
769-0563

MANGROVE VEGETATION IN INDIA ENDANGERED

New Delhi, (UNI) - Mangrove vegetation, which forms a specialised ecosystem along the coastal areas of India, is in serious danger. Reclamation of land for agricultural and urban development, and corrosion caused by intense industrial pollution and sea erosion, have contributed to the denudation of mangroves in India.

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FIRST DRAW-FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

New Weekly Provincial

Auroville

Communities of tomorrow ...I

By Jerome C. Glenn

Auroville, a "New Age" community in India, is striving to be a bridge between the past and the future. The community's residents come from many countries, and the idea of achieving unity within diversity is emphasized. Among the diverse activities of Aurovilians are organic farming, electronics, alternative energy research, and crafts production.

Auroville, India, one of the best known and more successful experimental communities in the world, is now in its thirteenth year of existence. The progress of Auroville is being watched closely by many people who dream of a coming world-wide transformation, for they believe that if a new civilization can be created in the country with the most probbems on our planet, then similar breakthroughs should be easier in countries with fewer problems.

The vision of Auroville was created by Mirra Richard and inspired by Sri Aurobindo, a revolutionary leader in India's independence movement just prior to Gandhi. While Sri Aurobindo was in jail for his political activities, he experienced a profound spiritual transformation. After leaving prison, he went to the safer, French-controlled area of Pondicherry in southern India to take up yogic practice and write about human transformation. Mirra Richard, later names "The Mother" by Sri Aurobindo, came from France to found the Sri Aurobindo Ashram and assist Sri Aurobindo. She was born in Paris to a Turkish father and an Egyptian mother who was the friend and confidante of such intellectuals and artists as Renoir, Manet, and Rodin. Sir Aurobindo died in 1950, leaving The Mother in charge of his affairs and teachings. She began to dream of a "place where men can live away from all national rivalries, social conventions, self-contradictory moralities and contending religions; a place where human beings, freed from all slavery to the past, can devote themselves wholly to the discovery and practice of the Divine Consciousness that is seeking to manifest."

When Auroville was formally opened on February 28, 1968, the following charter was read at the founding ceremony in 15 different languages:

1. Auroville belongs to nobody in particular. Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. But to live in Auroville one must be the willing servitor of the Divine Consciousness.
2. Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages.
3. Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realizations.
4. Auroville will be a site of material and spiritual researches for a living embodiment of an actual Human Unity.

In order to emphasize the transnational or planetary nature of Auroville, its founders involved representatives from 121 nations in the opening ceremony. Each brought soil from his or her nation, which children from the nations placed in a large urn, a symbolic receptacle made by a Greek living in India, selected for the artistic work to represent Auroville's ties to past civilizations as well as to future evolution. The charter-reading and urn-filling took place at the site where Aurovilians would build the Matrimandir, a beautiful meditation and meeting center. The planetary nature of Auroville was reinforced by formal recognition from the United Nations and development grants from UNESCO. (The host country, India, has also been politically and financially supportive of Auroville's attempt to create a planetary culture).

People from over 20 nations have settled in Auroville and helped in the struggle to achieve a union of the material and spiritual, of the past and the future. Aurovilians freely admit they are far from achieving this vision, but they feel old cultural and religious forms "peel away" as a new way takes their place.

Located on the Bay of Bengal on the very hot and somewhat humid south-eastern coast of India nine miles north of Pondicherry, Auroville's patches of land total 2,000 acres spread over an 8,000-acre circle. The rest of the circle's land is owned by individual Tamil Indians, the Indian government, villages and temples. With temperatures averaging 85 F in the cold season and 100 F in the hot season, the red baked clay and sand of this land is so hard that even in the rainy season a crowbar is the most common digging instrument.

Over 500 ioneers at Auroville have transformed this inhospitable, eroded, and denuded land into a relative paradise with beautiful trees and vegetation. Moreover, Aurovilians have developed organic agriculture, crafts production, alternative energy sources, and modern technologies such as electronics in ways appropriate to the environment. Aurovilians do not claim any special abilities or spiritual advancement, but they do claim to be laying the foundation for an advance in human nature.

[To be continued]

The Futurist

Sanjay Memorial Fund established

In deference to the ardent wishes of millions of Indians, especially the youth of India, The Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust is established for the continued promotion of and implementation of his nation building programs. The main objectives of the trust are:

1. Establishment and maintenance of Youth Welfare Centers for the education and training of youth in useful arts and crafts, social service and physical fitness, especially in the rural areas. Grants of scholarships and other forms of aid will be given to deserving youths for general and technical education with special regard for the needy, poor, handicapped and oppressed sections of society.
2. Abolition of the burdensome and oppressive dowry systems.
3. Planting of trees in rural and urban areas for beautification and utility.
4. Construction of alternative housing for slum dwellers in rural and urban areas and the clearance of slums and a consistent effort to promote hygienic and aesthetic sense among those people.
5. Informational services for voluntary family planning for better health, security and happiness for parents and children.

The Trust has tax exempt status in India. There will be the strictest accounting of receipts and disbursements and you can mark your donations for any cause among the objectives of the Trust that is most dear to your heart. You are also assured that there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, caste, creed, community or sex.

Please send your contributions to the Trust by means of check or Bank Draft made out in the name of The Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust to the following address:

Arun Nehru, Secretary
Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust
12, Willingdon Crescent
New Delhi - 110011, India

The telephone number of the Trust in New Delhi is 375774.

Todas face extinction

Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), (UNI) - The Todas, a primitive Indian tribe found in the Nilgiris in South India, are facing extinction, according to a study conducted by the editor of Vigyan Bharati, a science journal.

Widespread veneral disease among the females, traditional intensive polygamy, the primitive way of living and a complete lack of education are some of the reasons attributed to the fall in population of this remote tribe.

The editor, in a paper read at the international symposium on tropical rural ecosystem held here recently, also stressed the need for immediate atention to save the tribe from imminent disappearance.

Blueprint for nursing

The College of Nurses of Ontario has just released **Blueprint for Nursing**, a study of the nursing aspect of health care as it is likely to be in the Year 2000.

Copies of the **Blueprint for Nursing** may be obtained from the College of Nurses of Ontario, 600 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto M4P 1P4.

Emergency feared

New Delhi, (UNI) - Leaders of different Indian political parties have criticised Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's attitude towards the Opposition and asserted that the Opposition had a legitimate right to mobilise the masses against "anti-people policies" of the Government.

The leaders - Ram Jethmalani (Bharatiya Janata Party), Samar Mukherjee (CPI-M) and N.K. Krishnan (CPI) - were participating in a discussion on the "role of the opposition in a parliamentary democracy", here on December 12.

Referring to the agitations and strikes all over the country, Mr. Mukherjee said these were a result of the "pro-capitalist and anti-people" economic policies. The failure of the government to check the price rise and solve the growing problem of unemployment were primarily responsible for the mass discontent, he said.

Mr. Mukherjee apprehended that from "the way things were moving", it was certain that a State of emergency would once again be promulgated and the Opposition leaders would be put behind bars.

Referring to the reported statement of Mrs. Gandhi asking the Opposition to cooperate with the Government, Mr. Jethmalani said she never asked "for cooperation when the Government promulgated the National Security Ordinance and bought the junk called Maruti for millions of rupees at the cost of the taxpayers."

The Opposition had the right to point out the ruling parties' mistakes, he said.

Massive Soviet aid

New Delhi, (UNI) - As part of a massive assistance programme to develop India's industrial base, the Soviet Union has offered a major financial assistance of over 2500 million dollars for the upcoming steel plant in Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

The four million tonne capacity steel plant, the agreement for which was signed between USSR and India early last year, will incorporate the latest Soviet technology. Soviet assistance will also be forthcoming for major expansion programmes in two of the most prestigious integrated steel plants at Bhilai and Bokaro which have also been built with Soviet assistance. Within ten years the annual capacity of the Soviet-assisted steel plants in India is expected to reach 14 million tonnes - equal to the present total production of all other developing countries of Asia and Africa.

The Soviet Union has been assisting India in the development of basic and heavy industries in the public sector. Among the projects involving Soviet-Indian cooperation are enterprises in ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, coal and mining industry, oil industry, machine building, power stations, agricultural projects and ten academic and scientific institutions. This programme conforms to the long-term programme of cooperation signed between India and USSR in March, 1979.

Preventive detention attacked

New Delhi, (UNI) - Amnesty International (AI) has expressed concern over the re-introduction of preventive detention in India in the form of a new law, the National Security Bill, now before the country's Parliament. Although the Government has said the Law is only meant to be used against hardened criminals and anti-social elements, and assured that it would not be used for political purposes, the Opposition parties have expressed apprehension about the measure.

In its annual report just published, Amnesty also records the "persistence of serious police brutality giving rise to occasional deaths in police custody and the holding of several political prisoners without trial for a number of years."

The Amnesty International Report was prepared before news broke in India of the harrowing police blindings of undertrial prisoners in Bihar State in November.

The report, which covers the year ending April 1980, says AI had cabled to the President of India in February last reaffirming its concern about the preventive detention provision in the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act.

The report also refers to allegations of torture of some of the 48 army officers who had been arrested in Jammu and Kashmir on charges of espionage. At the time of the report Amnesty had not received any information on the enquiry which it had sought from the Defence Ministry.

The London-based organisation is also investigating the cases of four political prisoners on trial in Kerala, two in Bihar and three in Andhra Pradesh. Out of 28 cases in India it had taken up for investigation after sending a mission in 1978, 11 had been acquitted, five released on bail, two cases had been withdrawn and two convicted.

KITCHE
By Pranati Se

At this time of year, ma
about the excessive food
should be thankful for fish
without being lavish with
varies greatly with the di
poached or baked without
item for low calorie meals
others. The low calorie fi
ocean perch, smelt, pike
salmon, shad, tuna, turb
and thus are higher in cal
Fish, like meat is a goo
instance, contains 26.8 g
grams. Many less expens
protein than meat due to
protein fish is a good sour
amounts of riboflavin as
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sole is known as Dover so
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or hogchoker. About 12 v
are available in the mark
delicate flavor. If the
refrigerator for better fla
steaks or fillets should be
easily when tested with a
much of its natural flavor
diet this Indian-style fish
frying the fish or adding
needs just a squeeze of l

Sole Curry

2 pounds of fillet of sole, (i
on paper towel.
¼ cup ghee or oil (less i
2 tbsp. finely chopped on
¾ tsp. salt.
1 tbsp. curry powder.
1½ cups chicken bouillon
Juice of 1 lemon.

Heat one large frying pan
chopped onion lightly and
ghee add curry powder a
stirring all the time ov
browned; about 1 minute.
remaining liquid. While s
for 5 minutes. Place the f
cover the fish. Simmer fo
minutes for small, or until
overcook. Carefully arran
wide spatula. Boil the re
is reduced to your liking.
lemon juice and pour ove
coriander leaves or parsle

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KITCHEN KORNER

By Pranati SenGupta

At this time of year, many of us get a guilty conscience about the excessive food we've been eating. It's now we should be thankful for fish, which adds to the joy of eating without being lavish with calories. The amount of calories varies greatly with the different kinds of fish. Lean fish, poached or baked without added fat, is a popular menu item for low calorie meals. Some fish has more fat than others. The low calorie fishes include cod, haddock, sole, ocean perch, smelt, pike and all shellfish. But mackerel, salmon, shad, tuna, turbot and lake trout have more fat and thus are higher in calories. White fish is in between.

Fish, like meat is a good source of protein. Shrimp, for instance, contains 26.8 grams of protein per 100 edible grams. Many less expensive varieties of fish contain more protein than meat due to fat and bone. In addition to protein fish is a good source of niacin and provides useful amounts of riboflavin as well. There is a great deal of confusion over the fish we call sole. The great classical sole is known as Dover sole. But most soles in the North American market are of the same family such as flounder or hogchoker. About 12 varieties of soles, fresh or frozen are available in the market; they all have a pleasant, delicate flavor. If the fish is frozen, thaw it in the refrigerator for better flavor. Fish, whether whole or in steaks or fillets should be cooked only until the flesh flakes easily when tested with a fork. Overcooked fish will lose much of its natural flavor and tenderness. If you are on a diet this Indian-style fish curry is just for you. Instead of frying the fish or adding heavy sauce to it, this recipe needs just a squeeze of lemon.

Sole Curry

2 pounds of fillet of sole, (if frozen, thaw and separate, dry on paper towel.
¼ cup ghee or oil (less if you want to cut down calories)
2 tbsp. finely chopped onion
¾ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. curry powder
1½ cups chicken bouillon or thin coconut milk
Juice of 1 lemon.

Heat one large frying pan and add ghee or oil. Brown the chopped onion lightly and remove it. In the remaining ghee add curry powder and 2 tbsp. chicken stock. Cook, stirring all the time over medium heat until lightly browned, about 1 minute. Add the fried onion and the remaining liquid. While stirring, add salt and let simmer for 5 minutes. Place the fillets in the sauce which should cover the fish. Simmer for 20 minutes for large fillets, 15 minutes for small, or until fish is tender and flaky. Do not overcook. Carefully arrange fillets on a deep platter with a wide spatula. Boil the remaining liquid in the pan until it is reduced to your liking. Remove from heat, add the lemon juice and pour over fish. Sprinkle some chopped coriander leaves or parsley. Serve immediately.

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Nehru Centre in London

Cochin (Kerala) - (UNI) - India's High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, Dr. Seyid Mohammed has said that a Centre named after Jawaharlal Nehru would be opened in London.

In an informal chat with newsmen here, he said the project sponsored by the High Commission, would cost about Rs 10 million (1.25 dollars). The amount would be raised from among the Indians in Britain.

He said the Centre, to be built in a six hectare area owned by the Indian Gymkhana Club in London, would have a community hall, a hostel and a library.

Dr. Mohammed said there were more than 700,000 Indians in Britain.

Electricity from sun

New Delhi, (UNI) - The Indian Government will shortly take up a project for large scale utilisation of solar energy to provide electricity, drinking water and minor irrigation in villages.

The Rs 120 million (15 million dollars) pre-commercial pilot plant project, to be implemented over the next five years, will make increasing use of photovoltaic systems for direct conversion of solar energy into electricity to meet the energy needs of the rural masses.

The Government has already taken up schemes to fabricate solar photovoltaic pump sets of 25 kilowatt aggregate capacity and to provide five kilowatt capacity photovoltaic modules for domestic and other related applications. They are expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Timber exports banned

New Delhi, (UNI) - The Indian Government has decided to ban the export of wood and timber.

The decision has been taken to ensure the availability of these raw materials for the manufacture of furniture and other wood-based products which have an export potential.

Speaking at the 22nd annual general meeting of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council here, Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the Council had been requested to quantify their Statewise requirements about the type of wood that would be required for export production of wood-based products. After receiving this information the Central Government would pursue the issue with the State Governments to solve the raw material problem.

INDIA SIGNS TOURIST PACT WITH TANZANIA

New Delhi, (UNI) - India and Tanzania have reached an agreement on setting up hotels and tourist resorts in Tanzania as joint ventures.

Adam Sapi Makwawa, speaker of the Tanzanian Parliament and Chairman of the Tanzanian Tourism Corporation (TTC) told UNI here that experts from his country would soon visit India to finalise the proposals

More powers to magistrates

New Delhi, (UNI) - Law enforcement agencies in India will now be able to deal more effectively with anti-social elements, habitual criminals and those creating enmity between different communities and groups with the passing of the code of criminal procedure (amendment) bill by the lower house of the Indian Parliament on December 9.

The amendment to the code of criminal procedure bill seeks to deny criminals easy access to bail. There is now provision for imprisonment of the surety in the event of the undertrial failing to appear in the court after securing bail. The power to take security proceedings is also to be vested in the executive magistrates. These powers were hitherto vested solely on the judicial magistrates.

There was strong, but unavailing, opposition to this change proposed in the criminal law. The Opposition had earlier moved a resolution disapproving the Ordinance which the Bill would now replace. At least two ruling party members (of the Congress-I) and one DMK (Tamil Nadu) member voiced their misgivings over the vesting of powers in any authority other than a judicial magistrate.

The Opposition contended that any attempt to clothe the executive magistrates with judicial powers would strike at the very root of the directive principles of the Indian constitution that enjoined separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. They also feared that this power would be misused by the party in power to settle scores against its political opponents through executive magistrates amenable to its wishes.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs, P. Venkatasubbiah said there was nothing wrong in giving such powers to the executive magistrates since they were in charge of law and order. He assured the Opposition that the measure was not designed to take action against anybody except habitual offenders and criminals.

The Bill will have to be passed by the Upper House and approved by the President before it becomes law.

TWO MILLION MOBILE EARNERS IN INDIA

New Delhi, (UNI) - About two million persons in half of India are "mobile earners" according to the 1980 Economic Census of Enterprises and Entrepreneurs.

Mobile earners are those who have no premises to work and have to move to earn, like peddlers, hawkers, vendors and repairmen.

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Suitable match preferably in Canada for a divorced Rajput girl, 25, attractive, homely, M.A. Economics, working in States. Also for her younger brother, 23, graduate, extremely handsome, tall and athletic, working in India. Caste no bar. M-1737, The Canadian India Times.

Suitable match for a handsome, fair Christian boy, 28, 5'-7", B.A., Hotel Manager, steno typist. Keen to migrate to USA/Canada from India. Send full particulars with photo to M-1753, The Canadian India Times.

Well established physician, 33, 5'-8" Bachelor Rajput, handsome, fair, excellent health, East West cultured, warm, outgoing, wide interests. Seeks life partner. Early marriage. High personal and social standards. Girl must be at least 5'-5", fair complexioned, slim, well educated, musical, artistic tastes, affectionate, polite. Caste no bar. No divorcees or wodows please. Full particulars with recent returnable photograph a must first instance. For further correspondence reply M-1754, The Canadian India Times.

Suitable match wanted for a well settled Punjabi bachelor, 41, Canadian citizen. Family well established. Girl should be fair and slim. Caste no bar. Reply with recent returnable photograph to M-1755, The Canadian India Times.

Correspondence invited from handsome, well settled professional over 5'-8", 27-32 for professional, very pretty girl, 26, 5'-4", Hindu Panjabi, U.S. immigrant. Phone (416) 964-0179 or write 906-100 Spadina Rd, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2T7.

Correspondence invited from Gujarati graduates age up to 30, for beautiful, slim, immigrant daughter 25, 64", employed. Please call (519) 542 3202.

Suitable match for a Hindu Panjabi girl, 23, 5'-2", graduate presently on a visit to Canada. Two brothers well settled in Toronto. Please call 416-494-7692 or write M-1751, The Canadian India Times.

Wanted a suitable match for a North Indian Sood girl, 31, attractive, homely, B.A., B.Sc. nursing, working as a tutor sister in India. Sister well settled in Canada. No bars. Please write, with full details to M-1752, The Canadian India Times.

Brother, well-settled engineer, in Canada, from respectable, well-educated Jain family, invites matrimonial inquiries from good looking, smart, over 5'-7", under 30, well-educated, respectable, vegetarian Jain bachelors or his parents, here/India, for sister, fair, beautiful, graduate, 24, 5'-3", in Bangalore, India, for early marriage. * Hindi/Marathi/Gujarati Jains preferred*** Contact [416] 494-8796, Toronto, Canada.**

Wool quality raised

Bombay, (UNI) - A cross-breeding sheep farm set up in reserve forest land in Dhule district of Maharashtra has made a breakthrough in quality wool production.

N.G. Narsiah, a sheep breeding expert who is in charge of the project, said in a paper at a seminar that with cross-breeding, the quality and quantity of wool improved within a range of three to eight times.

Dr. Narsiah said the results obtained compared favourably with work done in advanced countries. The lambing percentage, that is the ratio of total ewes mated with lambs born, varied between 95 to 100 per cent.

The acupuncture alternative

Raipur, (UNI) - Renowned acupuncturist Anton Jayasuriya believes that after armaments, allopathy is the second biggest industry in the world posing a threat to human life.

He told newsmen here that studies in England had revealed 25 per cent of patients there were affected by diseases caused by antibiotics. To save people from the dangers of antibiotics, he said, there was need to integrate the indigenous systems of medicine of Asia, of which acupuncture was one.

Acupuncture, according to professor Jayasuriya, who is Chairman of Medicine Alternative, Switzerland, originated in India more than 2,000 years ago, but was carried off, with Buddhism, to China where it was developed. Acupuncture healed the complete body and caused no harmful after effects, he said.

More day care centres

New Delhi, (UNI) - Dr. P Paul Chowdhry, Director of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, has stressed the need for a comprehensive legislation to regulate the standards in daycare centres for children of working mothers.

Dr. Chowdhry feels that though private centres charge heavy fees, the standard of services they provide leaves much to be desired.

Raipur, (UNI) - Acupuncture (Chinese system of treatment with needles) has been effective in restoring muscle power to polio victims, Dr. Arjun Lal Agrawal of the Indian Acupuncture Research and Training Centre here, has said.

Speaking at the First National Congress of Acupuncture being held here, Dr. Agrawal said he had studied the effect of acupuncture therapy on 145 patients of poliomyletis between the ages of nine months and 22 years.

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